



CAEDA Encourages Companies to Utilize Workforce Development Funds

Casper, WY – June 12, 2009: The Wyoming Workforce Development Council (WWDC) has just announced three new workforce training grants funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. The Recovery Act grants focus on industry partnership solutions, alternative and renewable energy training, and self-sufficiency training. Over \$690,000 in funding is available for distribution through these grants. "The Council is excited about these proposals and feel that they fit with the council's vision of a strong and growing economy in Wyoming," said Jeremiah Rieman, Administrator of the WWDC.

In order to access these grants and provide training options for local industry and workforce, the Casper Area Economic Development Alliance (CAEDA) is hosting a series of lunch meetings with targeted industry sector representatives. These meetings will explore training needs and encourage targeted industries in Natrona County to take advantage of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act grants and other available training funds. Deadline for application is August 3, 2009, visit www.wyowdc.org/projects for further information.

Building a stronger workforce helps reduce turnover, increases productivity and provides additional growth opportunities for both businesses and individuals. "CAEDA is doing an excellent job taking the lead in initiating conversations on current workforce issues," said Kenyne Schlager, Mayor of the City of Casper and a Workforce Training Specialist at Casper College. "By opening up the lines of communication between local businesses, workforce services, and Casper College, a significant impact can be made in the areas of employment and training."

The workforce development luncheons also allow CAEDA and its strategic partners to listen to discussions among key players in targeted sectors. Based upon the needs of the various sectors, training programs will be developed and grants requested to meet specific industry needs. "A trained and skilled workforce is vital to a healthy local economy," said Robert Barnes, CEO of CAEDA. "Through partnerships with Casper College, McMurry Training Center, Department of Workforce Services and the WWDC, we can provide improved skills and training opportunities for our citizens while improving work quality and stronger bottom lines for our existing industries."

The first lunch will be held on Tuesday, June 16 for construction related industries, with another lunch on Thursday, June 18 for members of the energy sector. Two more lunches are scheduled in July for medical companies and businesses related to the creative arts. For further information on these events and to participate with your industry sector discussions, please visit www.casperworks.biz or call 307-577-7011.